

Reviving closed textiles mills in A.P.

2848. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 18 months 69 textiles mills have been shut down and more than 37,000 workers have been rendered jobless;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any efforts are being made to revive these textile mills;

(d) whether the new Textile Policy has not taken care of the textiles being closed;

(e) if so, whether any concrete steps in this regard are being worked out; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) During the period from 1.7.1999 to 31.12.2000, a total number of 56 cotton/man made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) having 31842 workers were on roll, were closed in the country. Out of them, 3 mills having 1471 workers on roll, were in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Closure of textile mills can be attributed to many factors including obsolete technology, increase in cost of inputs, difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, labours' strike, recessionary conditions etc.

(c) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

(d) to (f) The new Textile Policy envisages, *inter alia*, that the policy of not taking over/nationalizing sick units will be continued. In respect of unviable Central Public Sector Undertakings, various options for strategic partnerships or privatisation will be explored, and non-viable mills will be closed down with provision for an adequate safety-net for the workers and employees. The Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme to provide interim relief to the displaced workers, is continued.

Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair

2849. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (Spring) 2001 has again been organised recently at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, showcasing a wide range of handicrafts, woodcrafts, metalcrafts, garden articles, jewellery products etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that handicrafts of all of the States are being fully represented in the Fair; and

(c) if so, whether Madhubani paintings and other artefacts belonging to Bihar have not been given its due share in this showcasing and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) (Spring) 2001 was organised at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 27th February-2nd March 2001 by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) to provide linkages between handicrafts exporters and the overseas market.

The exporters exhibit only such products as are in line with international market demand. Since it is a market driven commercial event, no data is available on any craft specific information pertaining to the fair.